

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/710,499

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Applicant(s)

RADU ET AL.

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/30/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11-23-05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/30/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Examiner's Amendment and
Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
Allowance (11/30/05)

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jackson.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 10-21.

The claims were amended to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An automotive interior trim assembly, comprising:

a substrate; and

an ashtray coupled to said substrate and adapted to store one or more items, said ashtray comprising:

a compartment body defining a cavity ~~adapted to store the one or more items~~ and having an opening for gaining access to said cavity, said compartment body including at least one body connecting member integrally formed

therein made from a first material; and

a cover including at least one cover connecting member integrally formed therein and made from a second material having a different melting point from said first material, said at least one body connecting member cooperating with said at least one cover connecting member to couple said cover to said compartment body, a portion of either said at least one body connecting member or said at least one cover connecting member being molded over a corresponding portion of said at least one body or cover connecting member, said cover being moveable between an open position, wherein said cavity is accessible through said opening, and a closed position, wherein said cover overlies said opening.

2. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least one body connecting member comprises at least one projecting portion extending therefrom, and wherein said at least one cover connecting member comprises at least one receiving portion therein which receives said at least one projecting portion.

3. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 2, wherein said at least one projecting

portion defines a pin.

4. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 2, wherein said at least one receiving portion defines a bore.

5. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least one body connecting member includes a pair of spaced apart connecting members, each said pair of spaced apart connecting members having at least one projecting portion defining a pin having an enlarged distal end defining a circular portion, and wherein said at least one cover connecting member includes one connecting member, said cover connecting member including a pair of spaced apart receiving portions with each defining a bore having an enlarged receiving portion defining a circular recess, each said recess receiving one of said circular portions to couple said cover to said compartment body.

6. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said cover is pivotally movable between said open and closed position.


7. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said first material is polycarbonate/acrylonitrile butadiene styrene and the second material is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyoxymethylene, and polyamide 6.
8. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said first material has a higher melting point than said second material.
9. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1 configured as a door panel.

3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation "a substrate; and an ashtray coupled to said substrate and adapted to store one or more items, said ashtray comprising: a compartment body defining a cavity and having an opening for gaining access to said cavity, said compartment body including at least one body connecting member integrally formed therein made from a first material; and a cover including at least one cover connecting member integrally formed therein and made from a second material having a different melting point from said first material, said at least one body connecting member cooperating with said at least one cover connecting member to couple said cover to said compartment body, a portion of either said at least one body connecting member or said at least one cover connecting member being molded

over a corresponding portion of said at least one body or cover connecting member, said cover being moveable between an open position, wherein said cavity is accessible through said opening, and a closed position, wherein said cover overlies said opening" in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.


Kiran B. Patel, P. E.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
November 30, 2005